

# Longacre's Ledger

The Journal of the Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Collector's Society

Vol. 13.1; Issue #55

**WWW.FLYINCLUB.ORG**

March 2003



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# WHEN GREAT COLLECTIONS ARE SOLD BOWERS AND MERENA SELLS THEM!



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Eliasberg Collection



*Harry W. Bass, Jr.*  
The \$37.6 Million  
Bass Collection



*Emery May Holden (Mrs. R. Henry Norweb)*  
The \$20 Million  
Norweb Collection



*T. Harrison Garrett*  
The \$25 Million  
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January 1999—realized \$96,000.



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*The Rarities Sale*  
August 1998—realized \$24,150.



*The Rarities Sale*  
January 2001—realized \$24,150.



*The Rarities Sale*  
July 1997—realized \$18,700.



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# The Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Collectors Society

Our mission is to gather and disseminate information related to  
James B. Longacre (1794-1869), with emphasis on his work as  
Chief Engraver of the Mint (1844 -1869) with a primary focus on his  
Flying Eagle and Indian Cent coinage.

*Founded 1991*

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*The following individuals have indicated their willingness to help promote the club and it's activities in their state.*

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**please forward your E-Mail address to The Editor immediately.**

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Please help the editor in updating any errors or changes. If you would like to become a state representative (there can be more than one per state) please contact the editor.

### On the cover...

This is the Epstein/Gorrell 1899 Indian Cent graded MS68RD by PCGS. It is the only coin graded this high by PCGS for the entire series of bronze Indian Cents. The coin was sold in the Joseph P. Gorrell sale by Heritage at the FUN show this past January for \$69,000. The coin was previously featured on the cover of Longacre's Ledger, Vol. 7 #2 (April-June 1997). Notes in that issue mentioned previous sales figures for this coin at \$10,000 and \$14,500. It's so nice we had to run it twice.

*Image by Rick Snow.*

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# Longacre's Ledger

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## Submission guidelines

If you have a substantive article you would like to contribute, please follow these guidelines:

- ✓ If you have internet access, you can send text to the editor's E-mail address below. Unformatted text or MS word preferred.
- ✓ You may also send files and images on a 3.5" PC-formatted disk or CD-W disk to the Editors address below.
- ✓ Hard copies of the article and pictures may also be submitted.
- ✓ Images of materials can be made by the editor for use in the Journal. Please include the necessary return postage with the submission.
- ✓ Please feel free to contact the editor if you have any questions.

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## Submission deadlines

Please submit all articles, letters, columns, press releases, advertisements no later than the following dates to assure inclusion.

Issue	Deadline	Issue date
#56 2003 Vol. 13.2 ....	May 15, 2003 .....	June 2003
#57 2003 Vol. 13.3 ....	August 15, 2003 ....	September 2003
#58 2003 Vol. 13.4 ....	November 15, 2003	December 2003
#59 2003 Vol. 14.1 ....	February 15, 2004 .	March 2004

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# Presidents Letter

## Chris Pilliod



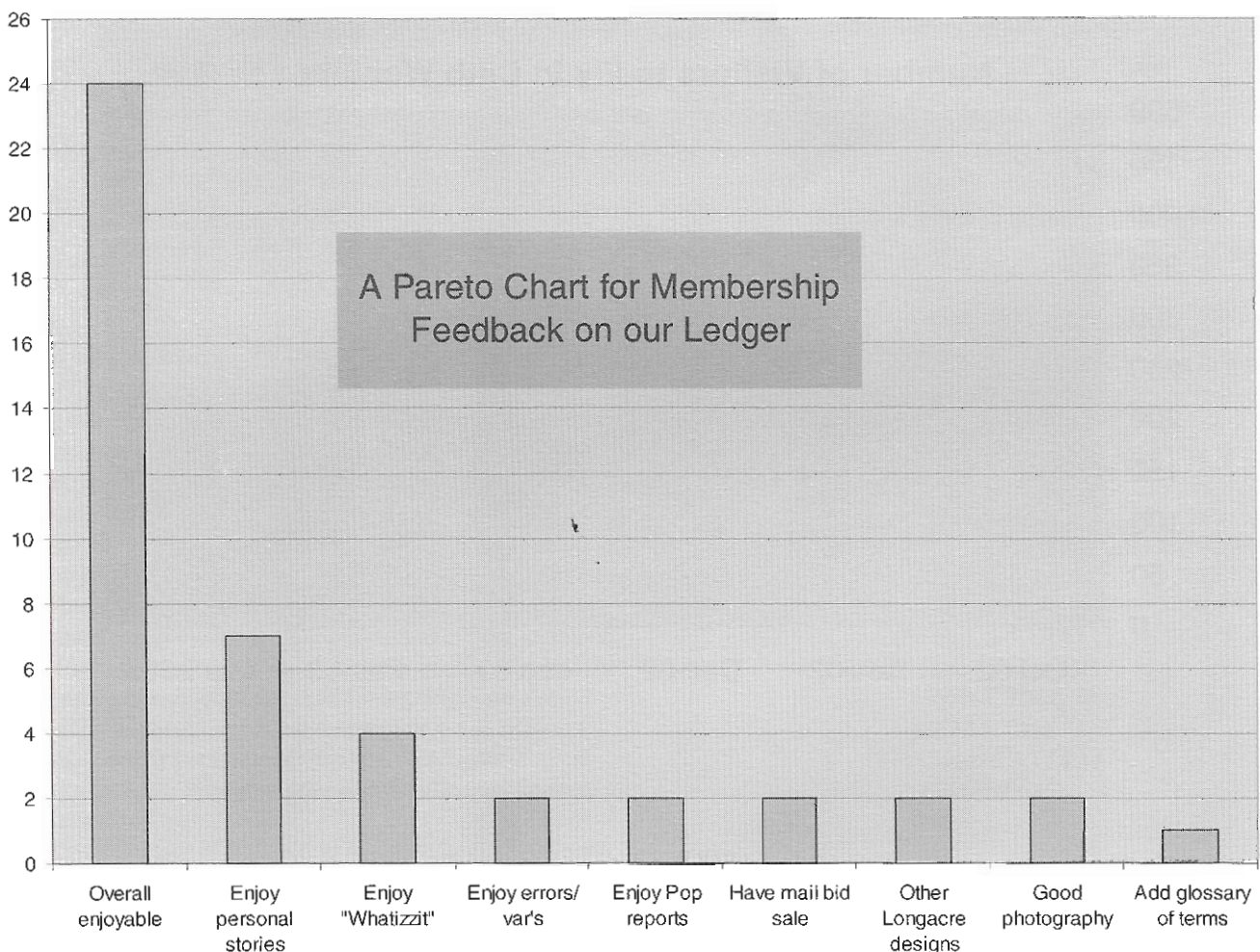
This is my 13th letter as president. Being March it is a time for scholastic and extracurricular endeavors at the Pilliod house. My oldest son and I just wrapped up his Cub Scouts "Raingutter Regatta". We carved a sleek sailboat out of a hunk of balsam, painted it with lightening stripes, varnished it full of optimism and headed out for the big race last Friday night. The kinetic energy for the boat was Jack's lungs expelling forced air through a straw. The moments before his heat was filled with anxiety. But unfortunately he lost both heats, and much of the blame was properly laid on his father, the engineer who over-engineered the boat and it ended up being a bit unstable (but it looked really fast!).

Both of the older boys are playing winter basketball, and the middle son Ross age 6 is also partaking of tennis where he has a very nice stroke and holds promise. In basketball they have an insatiable appetite for shooting and after the last game when Jack (age 9) threw up a fusillade of airballs I asked him his philosophy about passing. "Well, Dad" he sighed, "the way I look at it is if I pass it I may not get it back."

And little 6-month Henry is full of smiles and laughs a lot. He has the cutest little hands.

On to the club... We had a solid, although not spectacular return of membership renewals this year. We had 119 members renew out of a mailing of 175 for a renewal rate of 68%. Last year our renewal rate set a record of 86% re-upping. From what I can glean much of the decline is due to new members "trying" the club out for a year and not being Indian cent enthusiasts moving on in their interests. In addition we also find a few members who accidentally let their membership lapse and re-sign when they find out. Finally the economy is weak and disposable incomes are being looked at with added emphasis on trimming budgets.

Which means we must strive to make the quality of the Ledger even better. As a result I decided to benchmark ideas from members I have talked to or who responded on their





renewal forms for fresh ideas to enhance the Ledger. While most comments were strongly positive of the Ledger other comments include regular features of human interest such as the feature on Don "Water" Haley... Articles such as Don's make for enjoyable reading and if you know of anyone with an intriguing story, please feel free to write it up. If you need photography for an article you are working on, please contact Ken Hill. He has volunteered to do photography as long as they will be used for an article in the Ledger. He may be reached at:

**Ken Hill**  
**P.O. Box 18943**  
**Seattle, WA 98118-0943**

The "Whattizzit" column and the Population reports are also very popular. Tim Larson has taken over stewardship of the "How Many are There" column and I have asked him to submit an update of this feature twice a year—the June and December issues.

In other news, the club's website with Paul Houck as steward was honored with a "Best Site" award from Homestead provider. I have included a chart showing the recent activity on the site and an increase can be seen when the award was announced in February. Thanks to Paul and all his hard work on the site... it really is impressive.

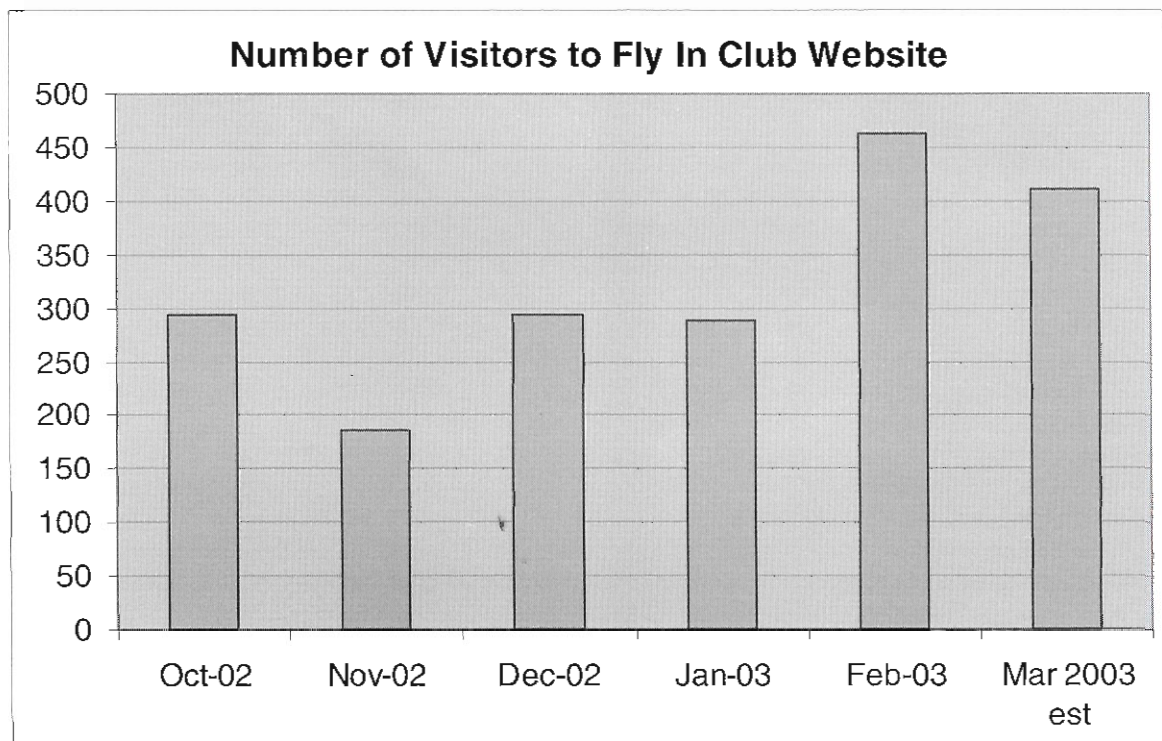
### **Charter Fly-In Member, Joe Haney dies.**

Shortly after the last issue was released I was saddened with news that a charter member of the club, Joe Haney had passed away in Philadelphia. Joe was a great guy, a WWII veteran, and I enjoyed having a few meals with him. He was crazy about Indian cents and even had "FLYIN" for a Pennsylvania license plate. When we dined together I was always impressed with how much salt the guy needed for whatever he was eating. It didn't matter what he was eating and man, he laid it on heavy. Unfortunately he also smoked heavily and complications from emphysema caught up with him.

Make a point to plan for this August's ANA Convention in Baltimore. The Club will be having a General Meeting on the Friday of convention week. Look for details in next Ledger. Finally be sure to vote for Best Article of the Year on the enclosed loose ballot in this issue. The winning article as decided by member's vote tally will receive a custom plaque and a check from the Club for \$100.00. Mail your return to:

**Fly In Club**  
**P.O. Box 162**  
**LaFox, IL 60147**

If you would like to share any additional thoughts, my e-mail address is: [pilliod@enter.net](mailto:pilliod@enter.net)



## Whatizzit, Anyway?

By Chris F. Pilliod

Here is another "Whatizzit?" for the Indian Cent aficionado. Take a close look between the words "ONE" and "CENT" on the reverse of this example. One can see the image of denticles running vertically. This phenomena while common on coins of the screw press era become quite rare once a metal collar was used around the anvil die. In fact, only about a half dozen different dies exhibit this from the Longacre era. It is a result of striking of the obverse die at a severe angle with the reverse die and the denticles from the obverse clash against the reverse, leaving behind an impression on all coins struck from the die pair.

So here's the question. The date of this small cent issue is what?

- a. 1870.
- b. 1880.
- c. 1890.
- d. 1900.
- e. 1910 (leftover dies from 1909).
- f. It's really a 2001 Sacagewea Dollar.

First Hint: The answer is not "f".



E-mail your answer to the Editor at: [Rick@indiancent.com](mailto:Rick@indiancent.com)

Or, call your answer to the Editor (Rick Snow) at: (520) 498-4615

Winner gets \$5 off next year's renewal.

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### *Larry R. Steve Collection selections to be sold in Baltimore*

The sale Larry R. Steve collection of Flying Eagle and Indian cent varieties has been a widely anticipated even. With the ouster of Q. David Bowers from the auction firm of Bowers & Merena by the powers that be at Collectors Universe, Larry has decided to consign the highlights of his collection to American Numismatic Rarities, the new auction firm presided over by Chris Karstead and John Babalis, former employees of Bowers & Merena. The auction will be held prior to the ANA convention in Baltimore in late July, 2003.

The portion of the collection consigned includes the finest and most complete set of 1857 Flying Eagle Cent varieties, including finest known examples of the very popular clashed die set. Outstanding examples of the 1858 Flying Eagle are also included including both overdates. A complete set of 1859 varieties and a nearly complete set of 1864 With L varieties are sure to make this sale very important to any collectors desiring to build these sets.

The collecting of Indian cent varieties is still in its early stages. Only a few collectors have been able to complete variety sets of ANY date. The opportunity to find these varieties listed in just one sale is one that has not been available to collectors before.

Many of the top varieties in each date are also included in this set. Highlights include the following in high grades of preservation:

1857 S-7 \$20 Clash  
1857 S-8 25¢ Clash  
1857 S-9 50¢ Clash  
1858/7 S-1  
1858/7 S-7  
1859 S-1, RPD  
1864 No L S-4, DDO  
1865 Fancy 5 S-2, DDR  
1866 S-1, TDO  
1867 S-1, RPD  
1873 Closed 3 S-1 DDO  
1874 S-1, DDO  
1880 S-1, DDO  
1888/7 S-1

The collection listing will be listed in its entirety in the next issue of Longacre's Ledger.

## Announcements

### Gorrell Collection awes the crowd

It was a madhouse! The bidder cards fluttered in the air like fans in a tropical cafe. Even well traveled professionals were awestruck by the action. Bids reached a fever pitch with every lot that was offered. And this was for the Buffalo Nickels! The superb set of Buffalo Nickels had been offered by Bowers & Merena the night prior to the Gorrell Collection. Bids like \$19,550 for the common date 1913 Type 1 in an uncommon graded of MS-68 kicked off the set. The rarer 1926-S in MS-65 brought \$103,500! This is a pop 9 coin! At the end of the set a small two line description with no picture was given to the very common 1938-D in MS-68. It brought \$14,950! A grade lower and its worth \$300.

OK, we don't do Buffalo Nickels here, but this shows the attention paid to low population high grade rarities in popular series. Indian Cents is also a very popular series, which is why the Gorrell Collection was highly anticipated by collectors. The importance of the collection is reflected in the fact that Heritage gave it a separate catalog with full color images for every lot. It started on Wednesday, January 8th, 2003 at 6:00. All lots were unreserved.

The opening coin, the 1856 S-3 MS-66 PCGS brought very competitive bidding, finally going to a dealer at \$103,500. Frankly, I'd rather have this coin over a 1926-S Nickel in MS65 any day. The coin is the finest known MS example of this coveted date.

The next stellar coin was the 1858 LL MS-67 PCGS, the finest graded Flying Eagle Cent! It brought \$40,250, which seems cheap compared to the similar price paid for a 1923-S MS66 Buffalo (pop 2).

The 1858/7 MS-64 PCGS sold for \$21,850, just slightly less than the \$23K it brought in 2001 at the Heathgate sale.

Whew! There were some nice Flying Eagles in this sale. The proofs, which included both a S-5 and S-9 1856 brought strong bids, as did the beautiful 1858 SL (see next page for prices).

The next big coin was the 1861 MS-68 PCGS which is the finest graded CN Indian, bar none! It brought a staggering \$54,625 from a phone bidder. The phone bidder, rumor has it, is assembling the finest known set and is paying whatever it takes to get it. (Note the \$75K+ price for the 1858/7 MS65 PCGS mentioned in the last Longacre's Ledger.)

Next up was the 1864-L in MS-66RD PCGS. It brought \$29,900. Some coins brought very weak prices, due to the lower quality of the coin in question. One of the disappointments was the 1872 MS-65RD, which fetched a paltry \$17,825. The 1873 Closed 3 graded MS66RD brought \$16,675, which is only MS65RD money.

However, the best was yet to come! The 1877 was widely regarded as the second finest example known, after the

Stewart Blay example (see LL 12-3). This coin was high on the must-buy list of Fly-In Club member Dr. Tim Larson. Again, bidding was done against the phone bidder, who would not let up. Tim finally let the coin go for a record \$77,625.

As the 1899 in MS-68RD PCGS approached you could feel the anticipation in the air. This is the finest Indian Cent graded of the entire series! Although its a common date, it was, by all accounts, the most stunning Indian Cent anyone had ever seen. This coin was earlier from the Epstein collection and was sold to Mr. Gorrell for \$14,500 in 1996. It was anticipated by all that Stewart Blay would be the buyer, as this is the "Holy Grail" to the PCGS set registry. Estimates were mostly in the \$30K to \$50K range. As bidding progressed passed \$45K, Stewart made his intentions well known by standing on his chair with his bidder card held high over his head. He then turned to the crowd and showed everyone his self assurance at acquiring the prize.

Then there was that phone bidder. He (or She) was unrelenting. The bids kept climbing higher and higher. It reminded this witness of the 1979 Garrett sale of the Brasher Doubloon, where a steady bid frustrated all attempts by Art Kagin to win the coin. Anyway, at the \$69,000 level, Stewart gave up in frustration. It was apparent that the coin could have gone much higher had it been pressed. Applause broke out at the record price, but there were no congratulations going to anyone in the audience.

By comparison the 1937D 3 Leg Buffalo MS-66 PCGS sold for \$78,200 in the Bowers sale. There are 3 graded of those. Hmmm. The finest for type compared to one of three graded for a variety. Does that make sense?

Next up were the proofs. The first big coin was the 1861 in PR-66 PCGS. This is the finest graded of that very tough date. The coin had sold earlier in the Heathgate sale for \$19,550. Here the bidding ended at \$31,625. Again to the phone bidder.

The 1864 With L PR-64RB PCGS was overshadowed in quality by the other coins, but with a coin this rare, it doesn't matter that much. It went for \$52,900.

One of the obvious disappointments was the 1886 Type 2 PR-66RD PCGS which sold earlier in the Joshua sale for \$57,500. Here the phone bidder got off way too easy at \$32,200.

The last big surprise was the 1903 PR67RD PCGS, which is a pop 8 coin in that grade. It brought \$14,950! That's twice the average price that "common" PR67RD's go for.

The total gross sale price for the collection of Proof and MS Flying Eagle and Indian cents was \$1,059,745! This was a record for any Indian Cent collection.



# **The Gorrell Collection**

The Gorrell Collection											
4401	1856	Snow-3	MS66	PCGS	\$103,500.00	4465	1905	MS66RD	NGC	\$776.25	
4402	1857		MS65	PCGS	\$2,127.50	4466	1906	MS65RD	PCGS	\$373.75	
4403	1858	Large Letter	MS67	PCGS	\$40,250.00	4467	1907	MS65RD	PCGS	\$402.50	
4404	1858	Small Letter	MS65	PCGS	\$3,105.00	4468	1908	MS65RD	PCGS	\$448.50	
4405	1858/7	Snow-1	MS63	PCGS	\$7,762.50	4469	1908-S	MS65RD	PCGS	\$1,207.50	
4406	1858/7	Snow-1	MS64	PCGS	\$21,850.00	4470	1909	MS65RD	PCGS	\$333.50	
4407	1856	Snow-5	PR65	PCGS	\$25,300.00	4471	1909-S	MS65RD	PCGS	\$3,795.00	
4408	1856	Snow-9	PR65	PCGS	\$16,100.00	4472	1859	PR66	NGC	\$6,900.00	
4409	1857		PR65	PCGS	\$21,275.00	4473	1860	PR65	PCGS	\$3,450.00	
4410	1858	Large Letter	PR65	PCGS	\$17,250.00	4474	1861	PR66	PCGS	\$6,900.00	
4411	1858	Small Letter	PR65	PCGS	\$36,800.00	4475	1861	PR65	NGC	\$31,625.00	
4412	1859		MS65	PCGS	\$3,335.00	4476	1862	PR66	PCGS	\$2,875.00	
4413	1860	Pointed Bust	MS65	PCGS	\$10,925.00	4477	1863	PR66	PCGS	\$8,625.00	
4414	1860		MS66	PCGS	\$4,715.00	4478	1864	CN	PR66	PCGS	\$7,187.50
4415	1861		MS68	PCGS	\$54,625.00	4479	1864	No L	PR65RD	PCGS	\$6,037.50
4416	1862		MS66	PCGS	\$2,530.00	4480	1864	With L	PR64RB	PCGS	\$52,900.00
4417	1863		MS65	PCGS	\$1,035.00	4481	1865		PR65RD	PCGS	\$7,475.00
4418	1864	CN	MS66	PCGS	\$11,500.00	4482	1866		PR65RD	PCGS	\$2,645.00
4419	1864	No L	MS66RD	PCGS	\$2,300.00	4483	1867		PR65RD	PCGS	\$4,312.50
4420	1864	With L	MS66RD	PCGS	\$29,900.00	4484	1868		PR65RD	PCGS	\$5,753.45
4421	1865	Fancy 5	MS65RD	NGC	\$1,380.00	4485	1869		PR65RD	PCGS	\$2,702.50
4422	1865	Plain 5	MS66RD	PCGS	\$20,700.00	4486	1870		PR65RD	PCGS	\$2,530.00
4423	1866		MS65RD	NGC	\$5,462.50	4487	1871		PR65RD	PCGS	\$1,495.00
4424	1867		MS65RD	PCGS	\$9,775.00	4488	1872		PR65RD	PCGS	\$3,680.00
4425	1868		MS65RD	NGC	\$2,587.50	4489	1873		PR66RD	PCGS	\$8,912.50
4426	1869		MS65RD	PCGS	\$3,565.00	4490	1874		PR65RD	PCGS	\$862.50
4427	1870		MS66RD	PCGS	\$18,400.00	4491	1875		PR65RD	NGC	\$3,910.00
4428	1871		MS65RD	PCGS	\$10,062.50	4492	1876		PR65RD	PCGS	\$2,070.00
4429	1872		MS65RD	PCGS	\$17,825.00	4493	1877		PR66RD	NGC	\$12,075.00
4430	1873	Open 3	MS65RD	PCGS	\$9,775.00	4494	1878		PR65RD	PCGS	\$1,006.25
4431	1873	Closed 3	MS66RD	PCGS	\$16,675.00	4495	1879		PR65RD	PCGS	\$1,035.00
4432	1873	Double LIB	MS64BN	NGC	\$10,062.50	4496	1880		PR65RD	PCGS	\$805.00
4433	1874		MS65RD	NGC	\$2,587.50	4497	1881		PR66RD	PCGS	\$1,840.00
4434	1875		MS65RD	PCGS	\$1,782.50	4498	1882		PR65RD	PCGS	\$1,207.50
4435	1876		MS65RD	NGC	\$2,530.00	4499	1883		PR67RD	PCGS	\$6,037.50
4436	1877		MS66RD	PCGS	\$77,625.00	4500	1884		PR65RD	PCGS	\$1,092.50
4437	1878		MS65RD	NGC	\$1,207.50	4501	1885		PR65RD	PCGS	\$1,150.00
4438	1879		MS65RD	PCGS	\$1,092.50	4502	1886	Type 1	PR66RD	PCGS	\$4,025.00
4439	1880		MS66RD	PCGS	\$2,587.50	4503	1886	Type 2	PR66RD	PCGS	\$32,200.00
4440	1881		MS65RD	PCGS	\$862.50	4504	1887		PR65RB	PCGS	\$632.50
4441	1882		MS65RD	PCGS	\$920.00	4505	1887		PR65RD	PCGS	\$5,980.00
4442	1883		MS65RD	PCGS	\$1,380.00	4506	1888		PR66RD	PCGS	\$1,275.00
4443	1884		MS65RD	PCGS	\$2,185.00	4507	1889		PR66RD	PCGS	\$2,415.00
4444	1885		MS65RD	PCGS	\$1,610.00	4508	1890		PR65RD	PCGS	\$1,840.00
4445	1886	Type 1	MS65RD	PCGS	\$2,990.00	4509	1891		PR65RD	PCGS	\$2,530.00
4446	1886	Type 2	MS65RD	NGC	\$12,075.00	4510	1892		PR65RD	PCGS	\$920.00
4447	1887		MS65RD	NGC	\$920.00	4511	1893		PR65RD	PCGS	\$862.50
4448	1888		MS65RD	PCGS	\$3,565.00	4512	1894		PR65RD	PCGS	\$1,035.00
4449	1889		MS65RD	NGC	\$1,207.50	4513	1895		PR66RD	PCGS	\$2,185.00
4450	1890		MS65RD	PCGS	\$1,035.00	4514	1896		PR65RD	PCGS	\$1,955.00
4451	1891		MS65RD	PCGS	\$1,035.00	4515	1897		PR66RD	PCGS	\$1,782.50
4452	1892		MS65RD	PCGS	\$948.75	4516	1898		PR67RD	PCGS	\$7,187.50
4453	1893		MS65RD	PCGS	\$920.00	4517	1899		PR66RD	PCGS	\$1,437.50
4454	1894		MS65RD	PCGS	\$833.75	4518	1900		PR65RB	PCGS	\$5,175.00
4455	1895		MS65RD	PCGS	\$747.50	4519	1901		PR66RD	PCGS	\$1,725.00
4456	1896		MS65RD	PCGS	\$805.00	4520	1902		PR66RD	PCGS	\$1,840.00
4457	1897		MS65RD	PCGS	\$862.50	4521	1903		PR67RD	PCGS	\$14,950.00
4458	1898		MS66RD	PCGS	\$2,415.00	4522	1904		PR65RD	PCGS	\$1,380.00
4459	1899		MS68RD	PCGS	\$69,000.00	4523	1905		PR66RD	PCGS	\$1,955.00
4460	1900		MS66RD	PCGS	\$3,220.00	4524	1906		PR65RD	PCGS	\$805.00
4461	1901		MS65RD	PCGS	\$1,380.00	4525	1907		PR66RD	PCGS	\$3,680.00
4462	1902		MS66RD	NGC	\$1,006.25	4526	1908		PR65RD	PCGS	\$977.50
4463	1903		MS66RD	NGC	\$471.50	4527	1909		PR-65RD	PCGS	\$1,610.00
4464	1904		MS65RD	PCGS	\$546.25	Total for Gorrell Sale \$1,059,745.70					

*From the Editor*  
*By Rick Snow*

A few months ago, David Hall of PCGS, Collectors Universe changed the attribution criterion for 1856 Flying Eagle cents. Seemingly out of the blue, he directed the graders at PCGS to designate all 1856 Flying Eagle's submitted with the PR designation.

At the FUN show I sat down with David Hall and Q. David Bowers to discuss this decision. Dave Bowers, was at the time still with the Collectors Universe organization, but has since been discharged. Noted collectors Dr. Tim Larson and Stewart Blay were also present.

Having worked with Dave Bowers on his 1996 book, he was well aware of my research regarding the division of the main body of MS pieces as coming from the Snow-3 die pair and the majority of the PR pieces coming from the Snow-9 die pair. Although he was uncommittal in his book, he agreed with the results of my research which was presented in its final form in the "Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Attribution Guide" Vol. 1 1856-1858.

David Hall had not even read the book.

By linking the historical evidence with the physical traits of the existing specimens, I have long maintained that the Snow-3 die pair are the majority of the original 1856 cents struck in late 1856 and delivered to Congress. These were mostly struck in MS format as a simulated press run. Additionally, I have maintained that the Snow-9 die pair was struck in proof format at a later date for sale to collectors.

Other, rarer die pairs are not at issue in this discussion.

There was no question regarding the emission sequence presented in my book, which was built upon earlier research by Walter Breen. The questions revolved around the format issue. David Hall, Dave Bowers and myself can all claim to have seen many 1856 Flying Eagle Cents, but no one can claim to have seen them all. Which is why I speak in terms of "most" and "possibly all".

I can not claim that all Snow-3's were struck in the MS format, in fact, one is certainly a proof, but also obviously a very special striking. (See "The Saga of a 1856 Flying Eagle Cent" LL #11.3, Sept. 2001) They are not all MS, but nearly all others seen have traits of being struck at high speed on the regular press. They show strike doubling and less than perfect strikes. However, these are struck with dies that were prepared no different than dies used on proofs. No example shows up with frosty cartwheel luster like their high production counterparts from 1857 and 1858. All are found with varying degrees of prooflike surfaces, although none are deep mirrored.

Technically, these are MS pieces struck with proof dies. That does not make them proofs, but prooflike MS pieces.

Similarly, none of us can claim that all Snow-9's were struck in proof format. I note that all high grade examples I have seen exhibit sharp strikes and no evidence of high speed production. There are many examples of the 1000 to 1500 pieces struck from the Snow-9 die pair that were poorly made. This is not surprising with a mintage this high. No other proof issue from that era was produced in quantities remotely close to this amount. The later die states show die cracks and die abrasions. Can proofs still be proofs if the dies are cracked? Yes, I believe they can.

Because some of the Snow-9's got deposited into circulation, there is confusion as to their original format. These cannot be used to determine the format because Proof is a method of manufacture, not a condition.

Confused? Apparently, so is David Hall. Which is why he threw his hands in the air and made an executive decision reversing years of attributions.

My own thought is that the Snow-3 die pair is desired over the Snow-9, not so much because it is "Mint State", but because it is "Original". The fact that the format issue is confused with the emission sequence is unfortunate.

I continued the debate at the Long Beach expo in February, this time with Stewart Blay, John Dannreuther and David Hall. I had a Snow-3 example with beautiful "proof" fields, and strike doubling on the date. John suggested that all 1856's may properly be called SP for "Specimen" since certainly not all 1856's are proof. He cited the Gorrell MS-66 as an example.

I think that after seeing various 1856's in a random fashion any grader would be confused and could not easily tell prooflike MS pieces from poorly made proofs. Only by careful study of matching like coins together can the truth come out.

My own suggestion was to have PCGS call the 1856 Flying Eagle whatever designation they like, however it is very important that they designate them with either "Original" and "Restrike" or "Snow-3" and "Snow-9". But what about the Snow-1, Snow-2, Snow-4, Snow-5, etc.? David Hall did not feel it was necessary to designate all 10 die pairs.

As it stands PCGS, like NGC, will now call all 1856 Flying Eagle Cents as Proof.

In response, I have initiated a special attribution service for 1856 Flying Eagle Cents. This is not associated with the Fly-In Club or my firm's "Photo Seal" service. For a small fee of \$15 plus return postage, I will be issuing attribution certificates which will declare the die pair of any 1856 Flying Eagle Cent and its true format. I will not be issuing grading opinions. This service will be available for any 1856 Flying Eagle Cent, certified or not.

# *A Classification System for Repunched Dates*

*By Larry R. Steve LM-2*

Repunched dates generally have been lumped together with very little study as to the manner in which they were repunched, or as to their individual characteristics. One exception, however, is when one date has been repunched over a different date — these have been called overdates. This lack of study for all other repunched dates has led to some misrepresentations and some confusion. In particular, the conventional description of the underlying date as being repunched in such and such direction has caused much of this misunderstanding. In an earlier article of mine, in which I presented information about the 1867 S-1 variety, I introduced the concept of a classification system for repunched dates. Some of my comments are worth repeating.

*"The 1867 S-1 variety is often referred to as the "1867 over 67". Most individuals would describe this variety as displaying repunching to the north. However, I find this conventional description actually hampers an analysis of that which had occurred when the date was punched into the die. The fact is, the underlying date (the weaker and partially visible one) was punched into the die first; and the final (full) date was punched into the die second. This makes the final date the repunched date; and it is repunched to the south!*

*The issue of which date was punched into the die first is a most important aspect to consider. ... (T)he reference to the underlying date as being "repunched to the north" suggests ... that it was punched second.*

*All repunched dates are not alike! Many are different from one another, and another element in understanding them is to use a more descriptive method. Collectors of doubled dies are well aware of different classes of doubled dies, and this classification system lends itself quite nicely to repunched dates."*

This article will expand on that concept, and introduce some other classifications for repunched dates that parallel those for doubled dies. Essentially there are five basic classes of doubled dies (other classes exist but are beyond the scope of this article). The five basic classes for doubled dies are briefly outlined as follows:

Class I - Rotation

Class II - Distortion

Class III - Design change

Class IV - Offset

Class V - Pivot

Each of these classes aids in describing how a particular doubled die occurred. For example, the 1857 S-3 is a Class I doubled die. The design elements are rotated slightly in a counterclockwise manner, and the doubling is uniformly spaced — most notably near the rim through the letters in the legend. The characteristics of a repunched date can be similarly caused, or could be as a result of some other reason.

A detailed study and classification of repunched dates begins with two basic precepts. The first of these, as stated earlier, is that the underlying date was punched first and the final date was punched second. This establishes a reference point from which we can describe the subsequent punching of the date. The second precept, which is most important and perhaps more difficult, is to recognize that the impressed image

of the date into a die is opposite of that as it appears on a struck coin. It is literally a mirror or negative image. Reversed images of some of the coins depicted within this article are provided throughout to simulate how the die might appear. These should aid in your understanding of this perspective.

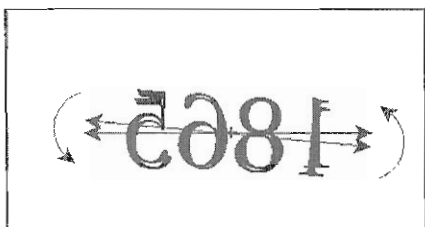
Following is a description of each of these classes as modified for repunched dates. A photographic image or two for each is provided as an example of the class. Graphic representations are also provided to depict direction or movement. In each of the examples, the direction of repunching is described from the first punching of the date to the subsequent punching of the date *relative to the die*, and not as it would appear on a struck coin (although conventional descriptions, relative to the coin, are likely to persist.) Additional comments may be provided where necessary.



## **CLASS I-ROTATED DATE PUNCH**

The subsequent date is punched in a manner so that one end of the date is higher than the underlying date, while the other end is lower. The subsequent date should be described as being repunched in either a clockwise (cw) or counter-clockwise (ccw) rotation relative to the underlying date.

**(a) Center Rotation** The rotation point is centered on an axis that bisects the date horizontally, resulting in a repunched date that is *uniformly high at one end as it is low at the other end*.

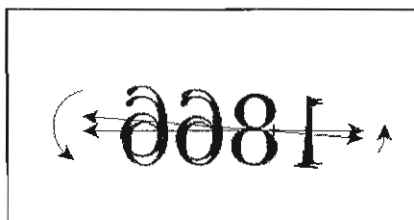


***Class I(a) - Rotation (centered)***

The coin depicted is the 1865 Plain 5 Snow-1 variety. The simulated die image, along with the graphic representation, shows that the subsequent date was rotated counter-clockwise from the first impression with a center rotation. The notation for this example is 1865 Plain 5 RPD Class I(a) (ccw).

This variety was initially thought to be an 1865 over 1864. However, further studies revealed that it is simply an 1865 over 1865. Some presently believe that it is a Plain 5 over Fancy 5. Yet this, too, is incorrect. The distinctive 'square' upper loops of both 8's (underlying and subsequent) reveal that it is a Plain 5 over Plain 5. By comparison, the loops of the 8 on a Fancy 5 date punch are 'oval' shaped.

**(b) Off-center Rotation** The rotation point is located somewhere along the axis between the center and one end of the underlying date. This results in a repunched date that is much higher (or lower) at one end, and only slightly lower (or higher) at the other end.



***Class I(b) - Rotation (off-center)***

The coin depicted is an 1866 Snow-4 variety. Note that there is very little evidence of repunching around the 8. This indicates that the rotation point was near that digit, and this point is denoted by a '+' symbol.

Below is a photo of an actual specimen, followed by a graphic illustration for this class:



*Larry R. Steve image*  
***1865 Plain 5 Snow-1***



*Larry R. Steve image*  
***Simulated die image***



*Larry R. Steve image*  
***1866 Snow-4***

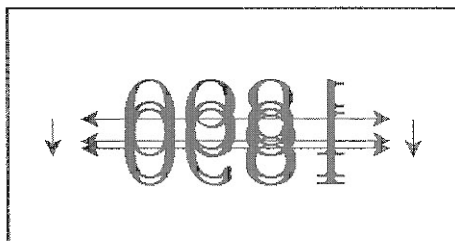


*Larry R. Steve image*  
***Simulated die image***

## CLASS II - DISTORTED DATE

The underlying date is distorted, caused by a re-annealing of the die between date punching. The digits of the underlying date migrate toward the rim brought about by heat expansion and metal flow from the annealing process. Since the underlying digits would always migrate south, it is not necessary to describe the relative position of the subsequent date – Class II would suffice.

These are extremely rare and *may* be found on coins that also display a Class II doubled die. Additionally, the distortion to the date would only be evident on very early die state specimens, making the search for such pieces that much harder. Of all the classes of repunched dates, Class II is by far the rarest.



*Class II - Distortion*

This is an extremely interesting variety in that the die was hubbed at least four times; and, in addition, the date was punched at least three times. Most specimens of this variety do not display the underlying digits near the denticles, but rather just show evidence of repunching as two nubs inside the 0 digit.



*1890 Snow-1*  
Larry R. Steve image



*Simulated die image*  
Larry R. Steve image

Marvin Erickson has postulated that dies were re-hubbed between date punchings; thus causing a “pinching” of the digits in the date from the first punching. With regard to this theory; inasmuch as trace evidence remains from the first punching of the date, there likewise should be trace evidence of the first hubbing in the form of a doubled die. The example shown for Class II tends to support this theory, at least for the specimen variety herein presented.

## CLASS III - DESIGN CHANGE

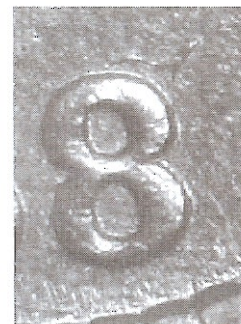
Two different date punches are used whereby the design of the digits on the subsequent date differ from those on the underlying date. The position of the subsequent date may also be rotated, offset or pivoted relative to the underlying date.

The primary focus of this class of repunched date is with the design change; any positional change is secondary. Coins in this class should be described as observed (i.e. “1858 over 7”, “Small over large”, etc.).

**(a) Different Date** The most obvious design change is in the year. Coins repunched in this manner are called overdates.



Larry R. Steve image



Larry R. Steve image

*1858/7 Snow-1*



### CLASS III - DESIGN CHANGE (continued)

**(b) Different Size** Another obvious design change (but to a lesser degree) would be when the digits on one date punch are larger or smaller than the digits on the other date punch.

These are equally as rare as the overdates.



Larry R. Steve image



Larry R. Steve image

**1886 Type 1 Snow-4, Small 6 over Large 6**

**(c) Broken Punch** Occasionally digits on the first date punch may be broken. A second date punch may be subsequently used, whereby the digits are not broken. The design of the digits differ by this broken / unbroken feature.

This is another rare subclass of repunched dates. In fact, the occurrence of all Class III repunched dates is exceptional in that they require the use of two different date punches.



Larry R. Steve image



Larry R. Steve image

**1882 Snow-3, Broken 2 over Full 2**

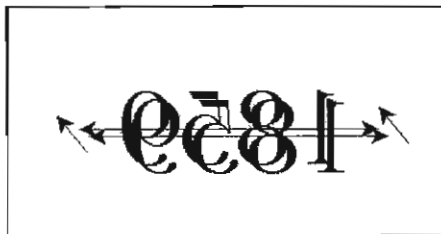
This variety was first listed as a repunched 18 over 18, with a repaired 2. This conventional description implies that a two-digit punch was used. However, my research to date (with rare exception) leads me to conclude that four-digit punches were used throughout – [see my extensive research on the 1867/67

Snow-1 variety in an earlier article]. Repunching on the 2 is clearly evident on the specimen in my collection, found along the base. Thus, a four-digit punch was used for the first and second impression of the date. And, one date punch was broken while the other was not.

### CLASS IV - OFFSET DATE PUNCH

The subsequent date is punched in a manner so that all the digits are shifted, *in the same direction*, away from the digits of the underlying date. The date punch may also be slightly turned in a way as to create an Offset Pivot class of repunched date (see below).

The subsequent date should be described as being repunched in the direction away from the underlying date. As in the example shown below: 1859 RPD Class IV (northwest). Below is a photo of an actual specimen for this class, followed by a graphic illustration.



**Class IV - Offset**

This is one of the more noted repunched dates for the series – bold, clearly visible and extremely rare. Whenever all four digits display a secondary image with wide separation, then greater interest is generated. Additionally, this is the best example of a class IV (offset) repunched date.



Larry R. Steve image

**1859 Snow-1**



Larry R. Steve image

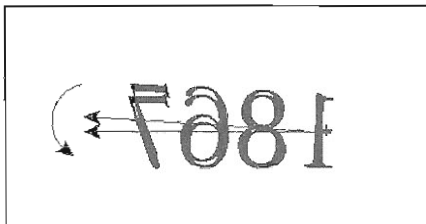
**Simulated die image**



## CLASS V - PIVOTED DATE PUNCH

The subsequent date is punched in a manner so that one end of the date is higher or lower than the underlying date. The subsequent date should be described as being repunched in either a clockwise (cw) or counter-clockwise (ccw) pivot relative to the underlying date. The description should also denote the pivot point (although this would be apparent upon inspection).

**(a) End Pivot Point** An end digit of the subsequent date punch is seated in the impression left from the first punching of the date. This would result in little or no evidence of repunching at this end.

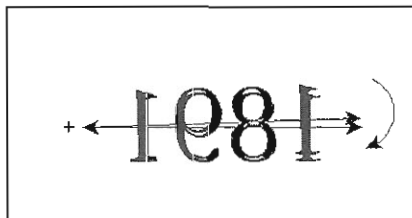


*Class V(a) - Pivot*

The full notation for the example shown below would be 1867 RPD Class V(a) (Right pivot point: ccw). Generally speaking both the subclass '(a)' and the pivot point notation could be dropped, leaving the description as: 1867 RPD Class V (ccw).

**(b) Offset Pivot Point** The subsequent date is punched in a manner so that one end of the date is higher or lower than the underlying date, and the other end is only slightly higher or lower. All the digits in the subsequent date will be either higher or lower by varying degrees. These can look very much like a Class IV offset repunched date. However, the underlying date and the subsequent date are not parallel.

**(1) On-Axis Point** There are actually two further sub-classes of this category. The first of which is referred to as being "on-axis", with the pivot point located along the axis, but beyond an end digit in the date punch. Many of the offset pivot repunched dates are this kind.



*Class V(b1) - Offset Pivot (on-axis)*

All four digits from the first punching appear atop the digits from the second punching. However, the first 1 in the date is noticeably lower than previously punched, whereas the second 1 is only slightly lower. This fits the definition given for this class of repunched date.



*Larry R. Steve image*

*1867 Snow-1*



*Larry R. Steve image*

*Simulated die image*

This is one of the more extensively researched repunched date varieties, and it has been studied over many decades. My own research into this particular variety gave rise to examining many other repunched dates, and to developing this system of classification presented herein.



*Larry R. Steve image*

*1891 Snow-3*

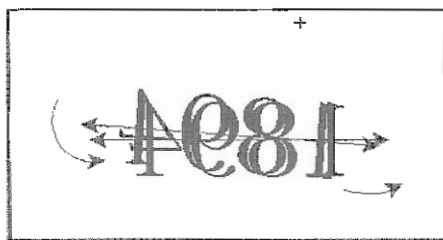


*Larry R. Steve image*

*Simulated die image*

## CLASS V - PIVOTED DATE PUNCH (continued)

(2) **Off-Axis Point** A second, more bizarre, variation of an offset pivot is found when the pivot point is located “off-axis” – literally somewhere out in left field (or as with this example, right field). The repunching of the date appears to have undergone some twists and turns of the date punch.



*Class V(b2) - Offset Pivot (off-axis)*

The 4 in the date from the first punching is noticeably higher than normal, and it is reasonable to assume that the die sinker might well have noticed it at the time. The sweeping counter-clockwise movement of the second punching brought the 4 down a bit, with a slight shift toward the right.

With a classification system for repunched dates, not only could we better describe the repunching, but we could also group them according to their class. Rarity of one class over another could then be determined. Obviously the overdates will stand out, but, interestingly, the rarity of some of the other classes would become more apparent and perhaps more desirable.

Once we have a working understanding of repunched dates and how they occurred, we could then move on to some of the related questions that may arise. Questions about the actual making of a date punch, or questions about misplaced dates, could be more meaningfully explored.

Finally, I believe that many repunched dates occurred in the following scenario: The date was first lightly punched into the die and then examined to see if it was properly positioned. If not, then a subsequent punching was made, *intentionally repositioning the date punch so as to bring it into the desired position*. Some traces of the underlying date could possibly remain, but this was probably an acceptable standard of workmanship at the time. It is also quite possible that a date was lightly punched into a die, found to be in position, and then subsequently punched deeper leaving no trace of the original punching. This would be due to the tapered sides of the digit punch; thus a deeper punching would widen the digits and obscure the first punching.



*Larry R. Steve image*

*1894 Snow-1*



*Larry R. Steve image*

*Simulated die image*

NOTE: Rick Snow had previously postulated that a guideline may have been lightly scored across the face of the die from the tip of the “U” in UNITED to the last “A” in AMERICA as an aid in positioning the date punch. This is quite possible for some dies, particularly for earlier dates of the series, and some evidence appears to support this theory. The subject requires further research. I might add that after the final date was punched, this score line could have been polished off; thus making this area of research more difficult.

If the above scenario is true (with regard to the theory that the date was first lightly punched for position), then it suggests that the initial punching was a test punch of sorts. And, if that statement is true, then it is possible that a misplaced date was also a test punch to first determine if the die was properly annealed.

I'll leave you with those final thoughts.

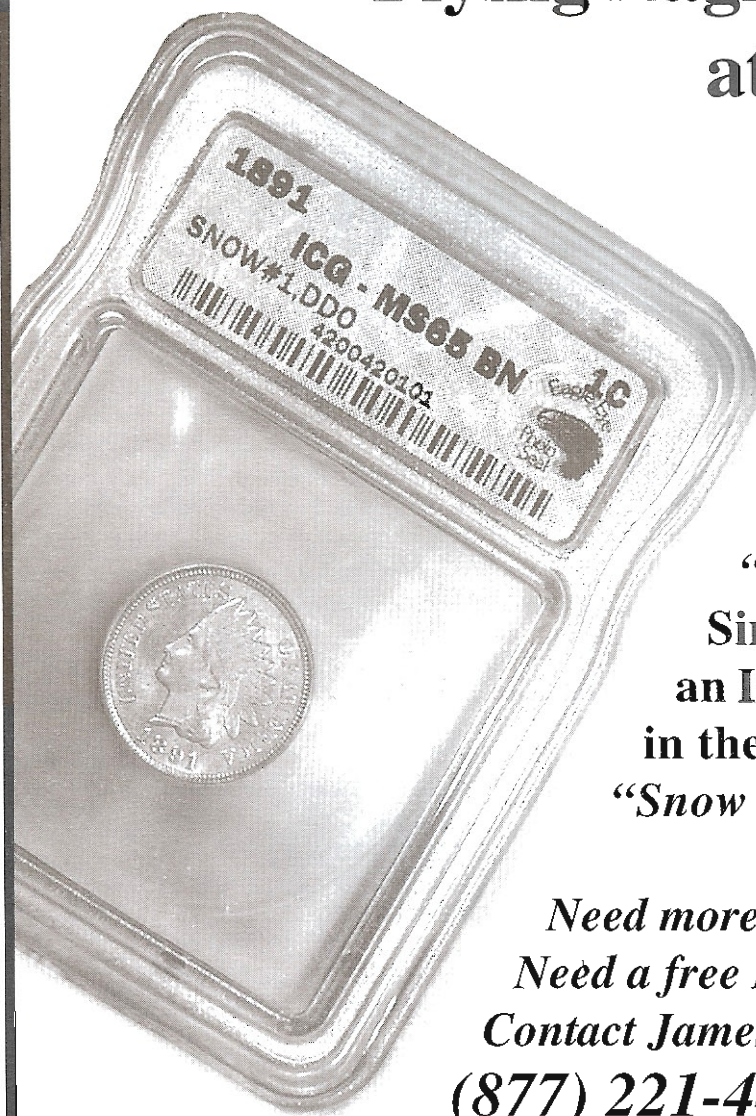


*Fly-In Club Image Library*

*Date position lines*



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# The Oregon Collection

By W.O. Walker

Late in 2002, I had the pleasant opportunity to offer a notable collection of Indian Head cent varieties to clients on my mailing list. The collection had been carefully assembled over a period of years and the coins were hand-selected based on their eye appeal, popularity and rarity. Many of the coins were referenced in *The Cherrypicker's Guide to Rare Die Varieties* or were "starred" varieties in the Fly-In Club's Attribution Files and, for the most part, were attributed and encapsulated by ANACS. Due to the

extent of the collection (approximately 125 certified varieties) it was offered in two parts. As expediency was a factor with the consignor, prices were set at about 10-15% below what would normally be considered "retail". Collector interest was strong on both lists and approximately 50% of the collection sold rather quickly. Below are listed the varieties and prices realized from those sales.

1859	S-1	ANACSEF-45	\$345	1881	S-2	ANACMS-63RB	\$125
1859	S-2	ANACSAU-53	\$175	1881	S-5	ANACSAU-53	\$ 85
1859	S-3	ANACSAU-50	\$225	1882	S-4	ANACSAU-55	\$ 75
1860	S-1a	NGCF-12	\$ 20	1882	S-6	ANACSVF-35	\$225
1862	S-2	PCGMS-63	\$165	1883	S-1	ANACSAU-53	\$225
1863	S-1	ANACSAU-55	\$ 85	1883	S-4	ANACMS-63BN	\$ 75
1863	S-4	ANACSAU-58	\$ 95	1887	S-1	ANACSAU-50	\$695
1864Br	S-3	ANACSEF-45	\$ 95	1888	S-20	ANACSEF-45	\$ 75
1864L	S-2	ANACSEF-45	\$195	1889	S-1	ANACSAU-50	\$110
1864L	S-3	ANACSEF-45	\$175	1889	S-31	ANACMS-62BN	\$165
1864L	S-6	ANACSAU-55	\$275	1890	S-1	ANACSEF-40	\$175
1864L	S-10	ANACMS-63RB	\$395	1890	S-3	ANACSAU-55	\$245
1865pl	S-1	ANACMS-63RB	\$425	1890	S-4	ANACSAU-50	\$ 55
1865pl	S-2	ANACMS-61BN	\$345	1890	S-6	ANACSEF-40	\$ 40
1865pl	S-3a	ANACMS-63RB	\$295	1892	S-2	ANACMS-62RB	\$ 85
1865f5	S-1a	ANACSEF-40	\$150	1892	S-4	ANACSAU-58	\$ 75
1865f5	S-3	ANACSAU-55	\$ 75	1893	S-2	ANACMS-64RB	\$195
1866	S-3	ANACMS-62RB	\$495	1894	S-1	ANACSAU-55	\$275
				1895	S-1	ANACSAU-58	\$ 75
1866	S-8	ANACSAU-58	\$275	1895	S-2	ANACSAU-58	\$ 85
1866	S-9	ANACMS-64RB	\$595	1895	S-18	ANACSAU-58	\$ 40
1867	S-4	ANACSAU-53	\$225	1895	S-22	ANACMS-64BN	\$110
1868	S-1	ANACSEF-40	\$175	1896	S-1	ANACSAU-55	\$ 65
1870	S-8	ANACSG-4	\$110	1897	S-2	ANACSAU-58	\$ 75
1870	S-13	ANACSEF-40	\$275	1897	S-6	ANACMS-63BN	\$100
1872	S-1	ANACSVG-10	\$ 95	1898	S-25	ANACSAU-50	\$ 60
1872	S-10	ANACSVF-30	\$235	1899	S-1	ANACMS-61BN	\$ 85
1873cl	S-2	ANACSVF-35	\$275	1899	S-2	PCGMS-64RB	\$145
1877	S-2	PCGSG-10	\$585	1902	S-1	ANACMS-61RB	\$ 75
1879	S-2	ANACSEF-45	\$ 79	1903	S-3	ANACSEF-45	\$ 40
1880	S-4a	ANACMS-64RB	\$165	1905	S-5	PCIMS-64RB	\$ 75
1881	S-1	ANACMS-61RB	\$ 95	1907	S-1	ANACMS-61BN	\$ 75

All prices included a 10% sales commission. All told, the sale of approximately half of this collection generated in excess of \$11,000. Interestingly, there were a few popular and desirable varieties which did not sell. These included a gorgeous 1864Br S-2 in MS-64RB, an 1867 S-1 in AU-50, an 1870 S-1 in EF-45, an 1873cl S-1 in VF-20, an 1888/7 S-2 in EF-45, an 1891 S-1 in EF-45 and an 1891 S-3 in MS-62BN. All of these varieties were ANACS certified.

It is my belief that the sales from this collection are an indicator of a strong and vibrant market in Indian Head cent varieties, particularly in the higher circulated and uncirculated grades. Members with questions or comments relative to this consignment, or who would like to be added to my monthly mailing list, may contact me by mail at PO Box 2221, Wilton, NY 12831, or by email at worian@aol.com.

***Unique 1863 J-299 “Coin Alignment” Discovered.***  
***By Rick Snow***



*Image by Rick Snow*

***1863 J-299 NGC-PR65BN “COIN TURN”***

The 1863 bronze pattern, J-299, P-359 is a popular transitional pattern with the exact design and composition of the 1864 No L cent. The coin is common enough as patterns go, so that most collectors can afford to acquire an example for their collection. Examples were struck in MS and Proof format on the order of about 300 pieces.

Until the discovery of this coin, genuine pieces were all thought to exist with a “medal” alignment. This is unusual in the US series, as most all coins produced in this country have a “coin” alignment.

Alan Herbert’s “Official Price Guide to Mint Errors” describes a medal alignment as *“The position of the reverse die such that when a coin is held at the sides and turned from top to bottom, the reverse will be upside down.”* Alternately, when a coin is said to have a “Coin” alignment, the coin will be right side up when turned as described above. All regular US coins are supposed to have a “coin” alignment.

In the Judd reference these are listed with the note “Often with dies aligned ↑↑”. Andrew Pollock III lists two examples with a coin alignment that were sold at auction in the 1970’s and 1980’s. These have been proven to be counterfeits. (see LL. 12-1 “The Mystery of Lot #2091 - The 1863 cent pattern set.”).

Fly-In Club member Ralph Bergholtz, after reading that article, found a coin in his collection was an exception to the research known thus far. He had discovered that the gem proof example of J-299 graded PR-65BN by NGC in his collection had a regular coin turn alignment! This I had to see!

Sure enough, the coin was indeed genuine. I had NGC note the alignment on their holder as “Coin Turn”. As luck would have it, I was still putting the finishing touches on “The Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Attribution Guide, Vol. 2 1859-1869”, so I was able to incorporate the new information.



*Image by Rick Snow*

***1863 J-299 NGC-PR65BN “COIN TURN”***

## *Grading Indian Cents - Good to Fine*

*By Rick Snow*

Whether you are a collector or a dealer, when you are buying coins the main concern is about balancing the condition of the coins with the price you are willing to pay. The higher the grade the higher the price. Grading is how both buyer and seller equate the value of the coin.

Since grade translates directly to money, there are sure to be buyers who might try to grade too strict in an effort to get a nice coin cheap as well as sellers who overgrade their coin in an effort to get a higher price. This is human nature and it is a big factor in the grading problems we have witnessed over the years. Grading services are not immune to overgrading and undergrading either.

The following series of articles will present properly graded coins and will point out the finer points to determining the grade of your coins.

The collectors of Indian cents in the Good to Fine grade range are usually more concerned with completing their collection within a limited budget. Typically the best way to start a G-F collection is to get a quantity of coins and start filling holes. The key dates which will probably not be found will have to be bought from dealers.

Usually collectors will move up to higher grades for many of the common dates because of the lower acquisition cost. This leaves an overabundance of duplicates in G-F for many of the commoner dates. There are dealers who buy these in quantity, but they adhere to a strict policy of no problem coins, and at their price only. There is not much room for negotiation.

## **Culls, Problem Coins, Poor, About Good.**



*Culls and problem coins.*

Given a random lot of unsearched low end Indian Cents, there are bound to be problem pieces which are unsalable. These are called culls. They are worth something, but not to a self respecting collector. Dealers will usually not pay anything for them, if they catch them. **Corrosion, holes, rim cuts** and other damage will destroy the value of the coins. Do not buy these types of coins at any price.

Coins with even wear and no problems may be called AG for **About Good**, p[if the rims are worn into the field. If the wear merges into the design then they may be called **Poor**. Valuations for these coins are subjective. I would recommend buying only the very tough dates in this grade, and only if very cheap.

*There is no price too cheap for a problem coin.*



# Good: G-4, G-6, or G

**Heavy wear. Full rims on both sides. All letters in legend (USA) are readable.**



## ***Minimum:***

***All rims are distinct from the fields.***

**G-6** may be used to indicate exceptional pieces, say if many feathers show detail but few letters of **LIBERTY** are readable. Typically the grade number is not used for average pieces.

Problem pieces should be discounted or avoided. Usually sellers tend to overlook problems at this grade level. Buyers should realize this and closely inspect coins. Coins with smooth brown surfaces without rim nicks, scratches, corrosion and dents are preferred.

The dividing line between **G** and **VG** coins is the detail in the **LIBERTY**. There is a slight difference between the two grades. This also equates to a typically small difference in prices. If a significant price develops, determine if the **G** price is too low or the **VG** price is too high.

## ***Cheap coins are cheap for a reason.***

Coins in this grade are good entry level coins for collectors desiring to fill holes in an album. If the coins are acquired cheap enough, perhaps out of an old accumulation, then it can be a rewarding start. If the coins are purchased individually, then the cost of upgrading may seem like a duplication of effort. I would advise collectors to pay retail prices only for the tougher dates in this grade. Many dealers



## ***Maximum:***

***Two letters of LIBERTY are visible.***

will accumulate the common dates cheaply in collections they buy and will not be too interested in buying singles in this grade except at a discount of 50% of retail. Dealers actively search and pay closer to retail for the better dates in the late 1860's and early 1870's.

The 1877 in this grade is a very easy coin to sell, provided there are no problems with the coin. Dealers will therefore pay strong prices. As prices have advanced for the 1877 in **G** and **VG** lately, it may be worthwhile buying a higher grade for a 2X premium, if possible. The 1908-S and 1909-S is very difficult to find in this grade as most were taken out of circulation early.

Variety collectors usually don't pay big dollar premiums for varieties in this grade, although the percentage premium can be quite high. For example the 1897 S-1 "1 in neck" can be spotted easily in this grade and may sell for a 20X premium, but that would amount to only \$20. The 1873 Double **LIBERTY** can be authenticated in this grade by the doubling under the nose. The design changes of 1864 can be told apart by the shape of the bust point. The 1864 With L has a pointed bust, while the 1864 No L has a rounded bust.

# Very Good: VG-8, or VG

At least 3 letters of LIBERTY will show.



## *Minimum:*

*Three letters of LIBERTY are visible.*

This is a very narrow grade range as it has been defined. The L & RT of LIBERTY are the typical letters that will show, but any combination is acceptable. The letter may not be clearly defined. The grade number is usually not necessary because there is no "Choice" VG. On the contrary, the grading range is so tight that **Very Good** should be considered a "choice" qualifier for the **Good** grade.

Buyers may want to target **VG** over **Good** to bring up the look of their collection without additional expense in money. However, the added expense would be terms of time.

Dealers will tend to group common date **VG** and **G** coins into the same pricing structure when buying. The values are similar enough that this does little harm. Be wary if large price differences develop between **G** and **VG**. This could be an indication of a rising market. A premium of over 20% for **VG** would prompt me to buy the **G** and wait for the price to catch up to **VG**'s.

CN pieces are very difficult to find in **VG** due to the wear patterns of these coins. 1908-S and 1909-S are nearly unobtainable in this grade, which is why they are usually price similarly to **Fine** graded coins. Except to preserve uniformity, buy the **Fine** grade in these dates.



## *Maximum:*

*One letter of LIBERTY is not visible.*

For many better dates there is a big jump in price to the **Fine** grade. The collector demand of "Full LIBERTY" creates this jump. A careful budget collector might be able to buy a coin that has enough detail to be worthy of a **Fine** grade, but because of its strike, lacks some of the letters of LIBERTY. If coins like this can be bought for VG money, you've got a very good deal. Conversely, if a big price difference is evident between **VG** and **Fine**, sellers will tend to take nice **VG**'s and grade them **Fine**. These will be priced to look like bargains.

*Grading does not change between dates.*

Collectors should attempt to keep the color of the coins uniform. An even chocolate brown is typically desired. (Milk Chocolate, not Semi-Sweet). Avoid problem coins: weak strikes with rims merging into the rims but with some of LIBERTY showing should not be graded **VG**. Cleaned coins should be downgraded to **AG**, not **G**. Bent, corroded and holed coins cannot be sold and should be replaced.



# Fine: F-12, F-15 or F

All letters of **LIBERTY** will be at least partly visible.  
The lower edge of the headband is indistinct.



## **Minimum:**

*All letters of **LIBERTY** must be partly visible, though they need not be entirely legible.*



## **Maximum:**

*All letters of **LIBERTY** clearly readable. The base of the headband is not complete.*

The grade range for **Fine** is very narrow, therefore **F-15** is used only on very choice pieces that can not be called a higher grade. A full **VF** with a weak strike or selective wear may qualify as a **F-15**.

This is the preferred minimum grade for many circulated set collectors. This is especially true for the tougher dates in the 1860's and 1870's. Many collectors who otherwise target **XF** and **AU** will allow **Fine** graded coins for many of the expensive dates. This added pressure makes these coins very easily for sellers to sell. Be wary of high end **VG** pieces offered as **Fine** at bargain prices. Be even more wary if they are fully priced. If the prices for **Fine** graded coins advance too close to **VF** money, then consider buying the higher grade.

1908-S and 1909-S may be occasionally found in this grade. This is the lowest recommended grade for these dates.

CN pieces in **Fine** should be priced 30% or more over the **VG** price. If there is not that big a difference, it is due to added demand for these dates in any condition by Civil War memorabilia collectors.

Common dates are easily found in this grade. It is recommended that extra care be taken to find the best coin for

the money for these dates. This means balancing the cost with the condition of the coin. If **VF** prices remain closer to **Fine** than **XF**, I would recommend always buying the **VF** over the **Fine**.

This is a good grade to look for varieties. Many dealers don't have the patience to look closely at these coins in the more common dates. Premiums for many varieties are much higher percentage than in higher, more expensive grades. The 1900-1909 dates alone hold many varieties worth looking for. Here's an area that even the collector with even the most modest budget can have years of fun and challenge. My 1900-1909 Attribution Guide (Vol. 6) is a great source of information for this endeavor.

The 1873 Double **LIBERTY** Snow-1 is not highly desired in grades less than **Fine**. A Double **LIBERTY** where you can't see the **LIBERTY** is not highly desired.

The dividing line between **Fine** and **VF** is the lower headband. If it merges into the rim it is **Fine**, if it is complete it's **VF**. As with many single point grading criteria, there are exceptions. An otherwise **VF** coin with a weak strike may properly be called **Fine**.

By Richard Snow, Eagle Eye Rare Coins, P.O. Box 65645 Tucson, AZ 85728 [www.indiancent.com](http://www.indiancent.com)  
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	G-4	VG-8	F-12
1859 .....	\$12	\$15	\$18
1859/1859 (S-1) .....	\$45	\$55	\$75
1860 Type 1 .....	\$12	\$15	\$20
1860 Type 2 .....	\$8	\$10	\$13
1861 .....	\$18	\$25	\$35
1862 .....	\$8	\$10	\$12
1863 .....	\$8	\$10	\$12
1864 CN .....	\$15	\$20	\$30
1864 No L .....	\$7	\$12	\$19
1864 With L .....	\$55	\$65	\$100
1865 Fancy 5 .....	\$7	\$12	\$18
1865 Plain 5 .....	\$7	\$12	\$20
1866 .....	\$40	\$45	\$60
1867 .....	\$40	\$45	\$60
1867/67 (S-1) .....	\$60	\$75	\$100
1868 .....	\$40	\$45	\$60
1869 .....	\$75	\$100	\$180
1869/69 (S-3) .....	\$100	\$125	\$200
1870 All Rev. types .....	\$50	\$70	\$170
1871 Shallow N .....	\$100	\$125	\$300
1871 Bold N .....	\$60	\$80	\$200
1872 Shallow N .....	\$125	\$150	\$350
1872 Bold N .....	\$75	\$90	\$275
1873 Closed 3 .....	\$25	\$35	\$50
1873 Dbl LIB (S-1) .....	\$100	\$250	\$800
1873 Open 3 .....	\$20	\$28	\$40
1874 .....	\$15	\$18	\$35
1875 .....	\$15	\$18	\$35
1876 .....	\$28	\$35	\$45
1877 Shallow N .....	\$525	\$700	\$850
1878 .....	\$25	\$35	\$50
1879 .....	\$6	\$10	\$14
1880 .....	\$4	\$5	\$6
1881 .....	\$4	\$5	\$6
1882 .....	\$4	\$5	\$6
1883 .....	\$4	\$5	\$6
1884 .....	\$4	\$5	\$7
1885 .....	\$6	\$7	\$12
1886 Type 1 .....	\$5	\$6	\$15
1886 Type 2 .....	\$6	\$10	\$20
1887 .....	\$2	\$3	\$4
1888 .....	\$2	\$3	\$4
1888/7 (S-1) .....	\$1,000	\$1,200	\$1,500
1889 .....	\$2	\$2	\$3
1890 .....	\$2	\$2	\$3
1891 .....	\$2	\$2	\$3
1891 DDO (S-1) .....	\$40	\$50	\$75
1891/1891 (S-3) .....	\$8	\$10	\$20
1892 .....	\$2	\$2	\$3
1893 .....	\$2	\$2	\$3
1894 .....	\$3	\$4	\$7
1894/94 (S-1) .....	\$25	\$35	\$60
1895 .....	\$2	\$2	\$3
1896 .....	\$2	\$2	\$3
1897 .....	\$2	\$2	\$3
1897 1 in Neck (S-1) .....	\$20	\$25	\$50
1898 .....	\$2	\$2	\$3
1899 .....	\$2	\$2	\$3
1900 .....	\$2	\$2	\$3
1901 .....	\$2	\$2	\$3
1902 .....	\$2	\$2	\$3
1903 .....	\$2	\$2	\$3
1904 .....	\$2	\$2	\$3
1905 .....	\$2	\$2	\$3
1906 .....	\$2	\$2	\$3
1907 .....	\$2	\$2	\$3
1908 .....	\$2	\$2	\$3
1908 S .....	\$50	\$50	\$55
1908 S/S (S-1) .....	\$75	\$80	\$90
1909 .....	\$3	\$3	\$4
1909 S .....	\$275	\$285	\$300

## Pricing G-Fine Indian Cents

Grading goes hand in hand with pricing. A proper understanding of each is necessary to better judge the value of coins presented for purchase. The prices presented here are for problem free coins, with original brown color. Scratches, rim bruises, heavy hits, and other relatively minor problems should lessen the price, perhaps 1 grade level. Cleaned, bent, corroded and damaged coins should not be priced using this guide.

Please compare this guide to other pricing guides. The prices here are adjusted to reflect the rarity and desirability between dates as well as between grades. Many pricing editors will adjust one date and not adjust other dates which have similar demand and rarity patterns. Dates such as 1874 and 1875 should always be priced the same. Yet one may rise out of sync of the other. This creates an opportunity for observant collectors.

These are retail prices and are not governed by the same motives as dealer *buying* price guides like the Coin Dealer Newsletter and the Blue Book. A 1900 cent in G-4 lists for \$2, but dealers only pay \$1. The commoner dates have a larger buy/sell spread because of economics of scale. The dealers selling common dates in G-4 singly, must be compensated by the amount of work involved. If dealers need to sell them at \$1 to move them piece-by-piece, then they'll pay only 50¢ each. The margin is smaller on the more popular tougher dates in this grade.

The differences between G and VG is usually very small, reflecting the narrow grading range of VG's. On the other hand, coins which are graded the nonconforming grade "About Fine" would be priced a bit higher than a typical VG, but a bit lower than a true Fine. In many ways pricing, when done fairly, can be an additional way of conveying the quality of the coin.

There are inherent errors in some price guides. For instance, the Coin Dealer Newsletter and Numismatic News Coin Market do not list the 1873 Closed 3 and 1886 T2 separately. Sometimes sales of these premium coins get recorded as the cheaper 1873 Open 3 and 1886 T1. This raises the overall price unfairly. This guide will help you sort out these errors as well.

The market for reverse types, like the 1871 and 1872 Shallow N are not well developed and reflect a slight premium. I include them here to make collectors aware of their existence.

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## *The Small Cent Sesquicentennial* *By Rick Snow*

The following is a series of historical items from 150 years ago which will eventually tie into the events surrounding the creation of the small cent in 1857. This is a running series which is available on my web site with links (which appear underlined) to additional information on subjects discussed. On the Web site the series will continue to include events surrounding the sesquicentennial of the Civil War. The starting link is found at:

**[www.indiancent.com/market/nov1852.htm](http://www.indiancent.com/market/nov1852.htm)**

The link to the current date in history will be found at:

**[www.indiancent.com/market/cwt.htm](http://www.indiancent.com/market/cwt.htm)**

The historical items chosen for inclusion relate to the economic history of the world during this period, and how they relate to the adoption of the small cent in 1857. Also included are items relating to the Civil War, territory development and politics of the time.

Please feel free to email me anytime with comments and suggestions.

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### November 1852

*"Standing with God and the crushed and bleeding slave on this occasion, I will, in the name of humanity, which is outraged, in the name of liberty, which is fettered, in the name of the Constitution and the Bible, which are disregarded and trampled upon, dare to call in question and to denounce, with all the emphasis I can command, everything that serves to perpetuate slavery-the great sin and shame of America" Frederick Douglass, 1852.*

Millard Fillmore was never elected to the position of President. Vice President Fillmore ascended to the job upon the death of Zachary Taylor in 1850. In 1852 his term was coming to an end, having failed to gain the nomination of his party.

The decisive issue in the election of 1852 would be the "Fugitive Slave Act" which was inserted into the "Compromise of 1850" which divided the country west of the Mississippi River between free states (the pro-freedom faction) north of the 36° 30' line (the present day northern border of Arizona, New Mexico and Oklahoma) and the slave states (the pro-choice faction) south of the line.

At the Democratic convention in 1852 there were four leading candidates, Lewis Cass, James Buchanan, Stephen Douglas and William Marcy. The convention was hopelessly deadlocked. On the thirty fifth ballot Franklin Pierce was put forth as a candidate. He was nominated unanimously on the forty ninth ballot.

The Whigs nominated General Winfield Scott, "Old Fuss and Feathers", the hero of the Mexican War. The Whigs were divided in the campaign. The Southern Whigs enthusiastically supported their candidate, while the Northern Whigs were reluctant supporters. The campaign was very personal, with both candidates accusing the other of being a drunk. In the end the voters chose the dark horse, Pierce, over the well known general mainly due to Southern support on Pierce's endorsement of the "Compromise of 1850".

On November 24, Commodore Matthew Perry sails from Norfolk, VA, to negotiate a treaty with Japan for friendship and commerce. Perry carried with him a Letter from President Fillmore. Years later in 1994, Perry's collection was purchased by Allstate Coin Co. in Tucson, AZ. Bret Palser, senior Numismatist at the time, appraised the collection. Perry was an avid collector of Hard Times tokens. His collection was auctioned by Bowers & Merena in January 1995.

### December 1852

On December 2, Prince Louis-Napoléon Bonaparte, President of the French Republic, was proclaimed emperor of France as Napoléon III. He had dissolved the National Assembly a year earlier and established a centralized and authoritarian regime. This was the beginning of the Second Empire. France will become allied with England and Turkey against Russia in a power struggle which would become the Crimean War. This war would provide many examples of the current state of the art of war that would replay during the American Civil War a decade later.

Napoléon III resurrected the long dormant minor coinage in France, producing denominations from One Centime to Ten Centimes in a previously little used alloy called French Bronze which is Copper with an alloy of Tin and Zinc. This alloy will become the composition of choice for the U.S. cent in 1864.

On December 6 President Fillmore delivered his last State of the Union Address. *"While the States of Europe incurred enormous debts, under the burden of which their subjects still groan, and which must absorb no small part of the product of the honest industry of those countries for generations to come, the United States have once been enabled to exhibit the proud spectacle of a nation free from public debt, and if permitted to pursue our prosperous way for a few years longer in peace we may do the same again."*



In California, Gold production reached the highest yearly total ever: 3,933,000 ounces. The totals (rounded to the nearest 000) for the four years earlier are as follows:

1851: 3,674,000 oz.  
1850: 1,997,000 oz.  
1849: 491,000 oz.  
1848: 12,000 oz.

This influx of over 10 Million ounces of gold into the world economy disrupted the delicate balance of silver to gold. As a result silver gained in price in relation to gold. In 1850 four Quarter Dollars were worth \$1.018, in 1851, 1.034. By 1852 all silver coinage was quickly going out of circulation. What circulated in its place was the debased silver Three Cent Piece (1851) and the new Gold Dollar (1849). The three cent pieces, derisively called "fish scales" were small and easily lost. The small gold dollars also caused problems. Patterns were being produced which featured a larger diameter Gold Dollar with a hole in the center.

A bill to reduce the amount of silver in the Half Dime, Dime, Quarter, and Half Dollar had passed the Senate in early 1852. It specified that the enactment date should be June 1, 1852. No one seemed to notice and the bill was allowed to go into law with the provision that the enactment date should be "on the first day of June *next*", which delayed enactment to June 1, 1853.

Although it was argued to the contrary in Congress, the effect of the bill would be to move the country to a gold standard. Because of the massive quantities of gold coming from California, a nearly unique situation in monetary history started to occur: The gold standard would prove to cause inflation! The price of copper would be effected. In a few years the value of the copper in the cent and half cent would approach the face value of those coins.

In California, two assayers struck gold coins in denominations from \$5.00 to \$50.00. Moffat & Co. struck \$10.00, \$20.00 and \$50.00 pieces. He also struck coins for Augustus Humbert, U.S. Assayer (\$10.00, \$20.00 and \$50.00) and as The U.S. Assay Office (\$10.00 and \$50.00). Wass, Molitor & Co. struck \$5.00 and \$10.00 denominations. Other assayers operated, but struck no coins. These firms were Frederick Kohler and James Ott. Small denomination gold coins in denominations of 25¢, 50¢ and \$1.00 also started to circulate, though only by necessity, as they were typically underweight. The days of these private coiners were numbered as the collecting of bids for construction of the new Federal Mint in San Francisco was in the works. The Congress had approved the new Mint on July 3rd.

In New Orleans, William T. Sherman was offered to manage a Banking institution in San Francisco by owners of the firm Lucas, Turner & Co. Sherman had been in San Francisco during the military campaign of 1846-1848. He accepted the offer and prepared for the move. His competition would be the newly opened firm of Wells, Fargo & Co.

After working on defences around Baltimore earlier in the year, Robert E. Lee becomes the Superintendent at West Point Military Academy in New York. He will remain in that position until 1855.

## January 1853

As Congress reconvened, one of the matters under consideration was the Mint Act, which was to remedy the problem of the silver coinage being exported for bullion. The Gold production in California had made the silver in four quarters worth more than a gold dollar. The bill would require the standard silver dollar to remain at the current 412 1/2 grains, while the fractional silver coinage would be reduced to 384 grains per dollar.

In a further effort to limit the exportation of the fractional silver coinage a legal tender limit of five dollars was agreed upon. The lawmakers were positioning the country towards a gold only standard.

The free coinage of silver would be stopped. Up until now, citizens were allowed to have silver made into coins at bullion value. This would be a major issue of contention to supporters of silver for decades to come. The silver mining interests at this time were an underdeveloped and unorganized force. In later years they would gain wealth and power, culminating in the bitterly contested Presidential election of 1896, Where William J. Bryan spoke about mankind being "crucified on a cross of gold". Pundits at the time blamed the depression of 1895 on the gold standard, as the "crime of 1873". They were wrong - the "problem" started in 1853. The world economy was changing, although most did not know it at the time.

In France, Michel Chevalier, a member of the Council of State of Napoleon III publishes a work entitled, "The Probable Fall in the Value of Gold." He strongly urges the demonetization of gold, giving as his reason for this position that it was becoming too abundant, and that its purchasing power had greatly fallen. Unlike the American financiers who worship a single standard, Chevalier says that the coinage of the large amounts of gold from the mines of California and Australia would double the volume of money, and therefore diminish its purchasing power one-half.

*"In time, the change will profit those who live by present labor; it will injure those who live on the fruits of past labor, be it their own or that of their fathers. It remains to add that in society as it is at present organized, the number is very small of those whom it can truly be said that they live on the fruits of past labor. Real property, rents, and the interest of investment depend in such a degree on the present labor of those who pay them, that in an important sense those who receive them live rather on the present labor of others than upon past labor."*

Lieutenant Ulysses S. Grant spent his time at Fort Vancouver, on the Columbia River, then in Oregon Territory. Oregon Territory was at this time being divided into Oregon Territory to the south of the Columbia River and Washington Territory to the north.

## February 1853

The coinage act of February 21, 1853 was an effort to overcome the withdrawal of Federal silver coinage due to the steady increase of its bullion value. This inflation was caused by the massive quantities of gold being found in California. The Act had other consequences as well. The language of this statute is as follows:

*SEC. 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that from and after the first day of June, eighteen hundred and fifty-two [Note the enactment date of June 1, 1852!] the weight of the half dollar or piece of fifty cents shall be one hundred and ninety-two grains, and the quarter dollar, dime and half dime shall be, respectively, one half, one fifth, and one tenth of the weight of said half dollar.*

This paragraph took the nation from a bimetallic standard and put us on a path towards a gold only standard. The weight of the coins was reduced 6.91%, which proved to be just enough to keep the coins from being exported during the next 3 years, after which time silver started to re-enter the country in great quantities due to the Spanish Silver redemption of 1857. The effective date would be corrected the day before the new administration comes to power in March.

*SEC. 2. And be it further enacted that the silver coins issued in conformity with the above section shall be legal tender in the payments of debts for all sums not exceeding five dollars.*

This was imposed to keep the coins from being exported in large quantities.

*SEC. 3. And be it further enacted that in order to procure bullion for the requisite coinage of the subdivisions of the dollar authorized by this act, the Treasurer of the Mint shall, with the approval of the Director, purchase such bullion with the bullion fund of the Mint... the remainder of this section deals with the accounting of these purchases.*

*SEC. 4. And be it further enacted, that such coins shall be paid out at the Mint, in exchange for gold coins at par, in sums not less than one hundred dollars; and it shall be lawful, also, to transmit parcels of the same from time to time to the assistant treasurers, depositaries, and other officers of the United States, under general regulations, proposed by the Director of the Mint, and approved by the Secretary of the Treasury: Provided however, that the amount coined into quarter dollars dimes, and half dimes, shall be regulated by the Secretary of the Treasury*

It is clear that there was a fear of overproduction. With coins only payed out for gold, the production would follow the needs of the business cycle. Overproduction would be highly unlikely.

*SEC. 5. And be it further enacted that no deposits for coinage into the half dollar, quarter dollar, dime, and half dime, shall hereafter be received, other than those made by the Treasurer of the Mint, as herein authorized, and upon account of the United States.*

This ended the free coinage of silver.

*SEC. 6. And be it further enacted...* This section deals with allowing the Mint to cast ingots of gold and silver for depositors.

*SEC. 7. And be it further enacted that from time to time there shall be struck and coined at the Mint of the United States and the branches thereof conformably in all respects to the standard of gold coins now established by law, a coin of gold of the value of three dollars or units... the devices and shape of the three dollar piece shall be fixed by the Secretary of the Treasury.*

It is surprising how little debate there was with instituting this new denomination. The bulk purchase of 3¢ stamps can hardly justify this section. Coin collectors are the only ones who seem to have benefited from the creation of this coin.

*SEC. 8. And be it further enacted that this act shall be in force from and after the first day of June next.*

Approved, February 21, 1853 by President Millard Fillmore two weeks before he was to leave office.

The Three cent silver piece was a 75% silver coin which had a bullion value significantly below its face value. Until the new coins started to be put into circulation they were the only federal silver coin in circulation. All other silver coinage found was in the form of foreign coins, mostly Spanish. Mint Director George N. Eckert had for some time been applying the profit from the coinage of Three Cent pieces to the general fund of the Mint. There had been no legal appropriations bill which allowed him to do so. He was replaced by Thomas M. Pettit with the change of administration.

A Bill regarding the formation of the Territory of Nebraska which would include present day Nebraska, eastern Colorado, southeastern Wyoming, and Kansas was put forward in the House of Representatives on February 2nd. According to the Compromise plan of 1850, this would be a non-slave holding Territory. The incoming Pierce administration was heavily biased to the pro-choice southern states regarding slavery. As such, this bill would be defeated and a new one proposing Nebraska Territory and Kansas Territory would be written. Another Bill regarding the formation of the Territory of Washington out of the area of Oregon Territory north of the Columbia River and west of the Rocky Mountains was put forward in the House on the 12th. Its name was changed to "Territory of Washingtonia" a few days later.



## March 1853

Washington Territory was created on March 2, 1853. It's border is the Columbia River to the south, extending further south to Utah Territory beyond the eastern border of Oregon. It borders the British possessions to the north, Pacific Ocean to the west, and the continental divide to the east. This territory encompasses present day Washington, Idaho and Montana. This area is very sparsely populated, except by native peoples.

A day before the new administration takes office, the "Deficiency Act" of March 3, 1853 was signed into law. This bill brought the fineness of the Three Cent silver piece to 90% silver, in line with the other silver coinages. The previous standard of 75% silver made the coin dark and ugly after a short time in circulation. To easily identify these new pieces, Chief Engraver Longacre modified the star design on the obverse with the addition of three outlines. The reverse was changed to show a bunch of arrows below and an olive branch above the Roman numeral III.

The Act of March 3, 1853 also included authorization for an Assay Office to be established in New York. The site chosen was 30 Wall St, just east of the Customs House, which was erected on the site of the old Federal Hall in 1842.

President Franklin Pierce was sworn in as the 12th President of the United States on March 4, 1853. In his Inaugural Address Pierce states plainly his feelings regarding the slavery issue:

*"I believe that involuntary servitude, as it exists in different States of this Confederacy, is recognized by the Constitution. I believe that it stands like any other admitted right,*

*and that the States where it exists are entitled to efficient remedies to enforce the constitutional provisions. I hold that the laws of 1850, commonly called the "compromise measures," are strictly constitutional and to be unhesitatingly carried into effect."*

Pierce named one of his strongest campaigners, former Senator from Mississippi, Jefferson Davis as Secretary of War.

At the request of Secretary of War Davis, President Pierce awarded the post of Minister to Mexico to James Gadsden, one time President of the South Carolina Railroad Company. Gadsden had learned that the most direct and practicable railroad route for the Southern transcontinental railroad would be south of the United States boundary in present day Arizona, which followed the Gila River to the Colorado River, though present day Phoenix. His mission was to make plans to have the Federal Government acquire title to the necessary territory from Mexico.

The incoming Secretary of the Treasury, James Guthrie set about implementing the Coinage act of February 21, 1853. At the Mint, outgoing Director, George N. Eckert instructed The Chief Engraver, James B. Longacre to create a modification to the existing dies that would show the change in the weight in the fractional silver coinage. High priority was given to the Half Dollar. Longacre choose to add arrows pointing outward on both sides of the date to show the change. He also created a design which would envelope the existing Eagle on the reverse in a circle of sun rays.

At the end of the month Thomas M. Pettit was confirmed as the 8th Director of the United States Mint. He served from April 1853 until his death in June 1853.

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### Something New By Rick Snow



#### 1875 S15 Die lines below jaw and ear.

**Obv. 17: (C)** Heavy parallel die file marks from 11:30 to 5:30 visible mostly below the ear and cheek. Also visible in front of the forehead, eye and ribbon. Die crack from the rim at 7:00 to the base of all the digits in the date.

**Rev. T3-R:** Olive leaf and right shield point connected to the denticles. Left shield point away.

*Attributed to: Rick Snow*

Similar to S-6, but the die lines cover a larger area, and are at a different angle.

**1869 S16 1869, 9/9 (n).**

**Obv. 17: (LH)** Minor repunching visible above the base of the digit. A die crack extends from the bust point to the base of the E in UNITED. Die crack connects the tops of TED S and continues to the rim at 10:00. Another die crack connects the tops of OF AMERIC.

**Rev. U:** Shield points and olive leaves away from denticles. Heavy die lines above the shield.

Attributed to: Tom DeLorey



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## How to submit coins for attribution

**What should be submitted:** Any premium value variety which has not been previously listed in the Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Attribution Guide. Any overdate, doubled die, repunched date, die anomaly (if it's dramatic enough to ensure collectability) and misplaced digit (provided it is dramatic enough) should be submitted.

**How to submit a coin for attribution:** There is no limit on submissions. All coins should be sent to Fly-In Club Contributor,

**Rick Snow,  
P.O. Box 65645,  
Tucson, AZ 85728**

All coins should be sent with a listing of the coins, their insurance value, and a return address and phone number.

**How much does it cost?:** Please include \$4 per coin, plus return postage. All coin will be returned via the U.S. Post Office by registered and insured postage. Their cost is \$8 plus \$1 for every \$1,000 in insured value.

**What will I get?:** All new listings will be added to future editions of the Flying Eagle and Indian Cent book by Rick Snow. New varieties will be listed in a future issue of Longacre's Ledger, space permitting.

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